

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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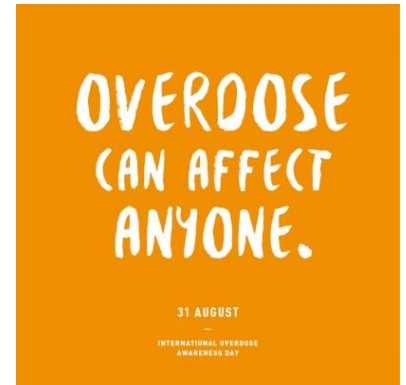
Carleigh Olson, MPH, CHES
Community Health Educator
715-839-4725
Carleigh.Olson@co.eau-claire.wi.us

International Overdose Awareness Day

Eau Claire, WI – August 31, 2017 –

Our community, much like others in the nation, is impacted by drug overdose. In 2015, 873 people in Wisconsin died because of a drug overdose. Nationally, 120 people die each day from overdose and many of these are due to opioids (prescription pain killers or heroin).

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August 31st each year aimed at raising awareness of overdose and lessening the stigma of a drug-related death. It also is a day of remembrance for families and friends that have been impacted by drug overdose.



Overdose Day spreads the message that we can prevent overdose and addiction. Here are some ways that you can help prevent substance misuse:

- Get a personal medicine lockbox. The Eau Claire City-County health department has free lockboxes, until supplies last. If you want one, please call 715-839-4725.
- Dispose of your left over or expired medicines at one of the five permanent drop boxes in Eau Claire County. [Click here for a map of the boxes](http://doseofrealitywi.gov/drug-takeback/find-a-take-back-location/). <http://doseofrealitywi.gov/drug-takeback/find-a-take-back-location/>
- Never use another person’s medication.
- Don’t take more medication or medication more often than prescribed without talking with your doctor.
- To learn more go to www.getinvolvedasap.org or <http://doseofrealitywi.gov/>

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